

In the Claims

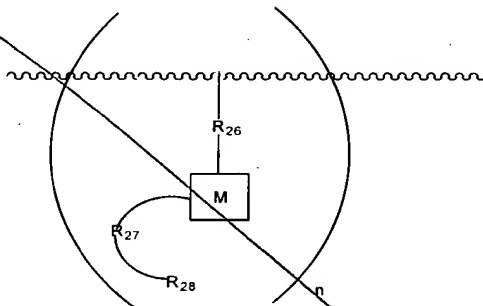
Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

-12. A composition comprising:

- a) a polymer;
- b) at least one MRI agent comprising:
 - i) at least one chelator comprising a paramagnetic metal ion; and,
 - ii) a blocking moiety covalently attached to said chelator which hinders the rapid exchange of water in the remaining coordination sites, wherein said blocking moiety will interact with a target substance such that the exchange of water in the remaining coordination sites is increased; and
- c) a linker group attaching said MRI agent to said polymer.

13. An MRI agent according to claim 1 having the formula comprising:



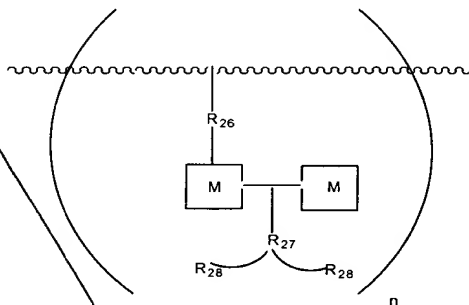
wherein

M is a chelator comprising a paramagnetic metal ion;

R₂₆ and R₂₇ are linker groups;

R_{28} is a blocking moiety; and,
 n is an integer.

14. An MRI agent according to claim 1 having the formula comprising:



wherein

M is a chelator comprising a paramagnetic metal ion;

R_{26} and R_{27} are linker groups;

R_{28} is a blocking moiety; and

n is an integer.

15. An MRI agent according to claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein said paramagnetic metal ion is selected from the group comprising gadolinium III (Gd^{+3} or $Gd(III)$), iron III (Fe^{+3} or $Fe(III)$), manganese II (Mn^{+2} or $Mn(II)$), dysprosium (Dy^{+3} or $Dy(III)$), or chromium (Cr^{+3} or $Cr(III)$).

16. An MRI agent according to claim 15 where said paramagnetic ion is $Gd(III)$.

Sub B2 17. An MRI agent according to ~~claims 1, 2 or 3~~ wherein said linker groups are alkyl groups.

18. An MRI agent according to claim 17 wherein said alkyl groups are substituted alkyl groups.

Sub B3 19. An MRI agent according to ~~claims 1, 2 or 3~~ wherein said linker groups are aryl groups.

00866513-031302 20. An MRI agent according to claims 19 wherein said aryl groups are substituted aryl groups.

Sub B4 21. An MRI agent according to claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein at least one of said linker groups are selected from the group comprising p-aminobenzyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, propionic acid, aminobutyl, p-alkyl phenols, and 4-alkylimidazaole.

22. An MRI agent according to claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said blocking moiety is a peptide.

23. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said peptide binds to an metalloproteinase.

24. An MRI agent according to ~~claim 23~~ wherein said peptide is selected from the group comprising PELR (SEQ ID NO: 8), PLGLAR (SEQ ID NO: 9), PGLWA-(D-arg) (SEQ ID NO: 10), PMALWMR (SEQ ID NO: 11), and PMGLRA (SEQ ID NO: 12).

Sub B5 25. An MRI agent according to ~~claims 1, 2 or 3~~ wherein said polymer is selected from the